

## **Santee Fire Department** **Tent Permit Requirements**



The City of Santee has adopted and amended the 2010 California State Fire Code for use in establishing the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. The requirements for temporary tents, canopies and membrane structures erected in the City of Santee shall be in compliance with Section 2403 and 2404 of the Adopted and Amended Fire Code for the City of Santee. Although it is not inclusive of all requirements in the Fire Code, this document shall serve as general requirements to assist the permit applicant to safely conduct an event utilizing tents and membrane structures and should not be viewed as containing all of the requirements of Section 2403 or 2404 of the Fire Code.

### **TEMPORARY TENTS, CANOPIES AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES**

**Approval required** – Tents and membrane structures in excess of 200 square feet and canopies in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the fire code official.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Tents used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.
2. Fabric canopies open on all sides which comply with all of the following:
  - 2.1. Individual canopies having a maximum size of 700 square feet.
  - 2.2. The aggregate area of multiple canopies placed side by side without a fire break clearance of 12 feet, not exceeding 700 square feet total.
  - 2.3. A minimum clearance of 12 feet to all structures and other tents.

**Permit Fees:** Permit fees are established in accordance with Santee Municipal Code Section 3.02

#### **Permit Application Requirements:**

1. A detailed site and floor plan for tents, canopies or membrane structures that require a permit shall be provided at the time of permit application. The tent, canopy or membrane site plan and structure floor plan shall indicate all necessary dimensions and details of the means of egress facilities, seating capacity, arrangement of the seating and location and type of heating and electrical equipment. Additionally the distances between other tents and structures as well shall be depicted on the site plan.

2. Inspection report- When required by the fire code official, an inspection report shall be provided and shall consist of maintenance, anchors and fabric inspections.
3. Fire apparatus access roads- shall be provided access to within 150' of structure in accordance with the fire code.
4. Location- Tents, canopies or membrane structures shall not be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tents, canopies or membrane structures, parked vehicles or internal combustion engines.
5. Fire break - An unobstructed fire break passageway or fire road not less than 12 feet wide and free from guy ropes or other obstructions shall be maintained on all sides of all tents, canopies and membrane structures.
6. Anchorage - Tents, canopies or membrane structures and their appurtenances shall be adequately roped, braced and anchored to withstand the elements of weather and prevent against collapsing.
7. Flame propagation performance treatment - Before a permit is granted, the owner or agent shall file with the fire code official a certificate executed by an approved testing laboratory certifying that the tents; canopies and membrane structures and their appurtenances; sidewalls, drops and tarpaulins; floor coverings, bunting and combustible decorative materials and effects, including sawdust when used on floors or passageways, shall be composed of material meeting the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or shall be treated with a flame retardant in an approved manner and meet the flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701, and that such flame propagation performance criteria are effective for the period specified by the permit.

The areas within and adjacent to the tent or air-supported structure shall be maintained clear of all combustible materials or vegetation that could create a fire hazard within 20 feet (6096 mm) of the structure. Combustible trash shall be removed at least once a day from the structure during the period the structure is occupied by the public.

7. Smoking shall not be permitted in tents, canopies or membrane structures. Approved "No Smoking" signs shall be posted.

Open flame or other devices emitting flame, fire or heat or any flammable or combustible liquids, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved devices shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent, canopy or membrane structures while open to the public unless approved by the fire code official.

8. Portable fire extinguishers- Shall be provided as required by [Section 906](#) of the Fire Code.

9. Cooking

Cooking tents- Tents where cooking is performed shall be separated from other tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet.

Outdoor cooking- Outdoor cooking that produces sparks or grease-laden vapors shall not be performed within 20 feet of a tent, canopy or membrane structure.

10. Generators and other internal combustion power sources shall be separated from tents, canopies or membrane structures by a minimum of 20 feet and shall be isolated from contact with the public by fencing, enclosure or other approved means.

11. Combustible vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by a tent, canopy or membrane structure, and from areas within 30 feet of such structures.

If there are any questions or concerns related to the permit application and approval process or for guidance on how to safely conduct your event, please Contact the Santee Fire Marshal at 619-258-4100.